



Southwest Public Lands People



Employee News of the

San Juan National Forest & San Juan Field Office-BLM

Spring 2002

Leaving Behind Some Big Shoes to Fill

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Everyone knew these two wouldn't stay here forever, but no one expected Cal Joyner, San Juan National Forest Supervisor/BLM San Juan Center Manager, and Kent Hoffman, Associate Forest Supervisor/BLM Field Manager, to depart at the same time.

Much was accomplished under their joint leadership, and each credits the other for their successes, including implementation of Service First.



Cal left in late April for the Pacific Northwest Region to become Director of Natural Resources.

"I'll be the Regional Forester's focal point for policy guidance and budget implementation for soil, water, fish, wildlife, timber, range and ecology," he says.

This means providing policy guidance for 19 for-

ests located in Oregon and Washington.

Cal began his career in the Pacific Northwest as a co-op student on the Siuslaw NF after graduating from Humboldt State as a hydrologist.

"Back then, Kathy and I moved everything in our VW bug," he recalls. This time the move won't be that simple, but both Joyners are excited about returning to the northwest.

"Balancing career with family is one reason for leaving now," Cal says. Son Ryan, 14, is starting high school and will be able to stay with one school. Mark, 10, is entering 5th grade and is also excited about the move. Wife Kathy will be taking a break from teaching for awhile.

"The San Juan has a national reputation, and the folks here don't realize how special they are," Cal says. "I wish more public land agencies had the creativity, energy and commitment that the staff has here."

Kent left in early May for his home state of Utah, where he grew up and graduated from Utah State with a geology degree. He will be Deputy State Director for Lands and Minerals in the BLM Utah State Office.

"I'll be managing state activities relating to resources, in-

cluding geothermal, minerals and fluids," he says. "I'll be geographically challenged because the San Juan area is the region that I've known for so long."

The Hoffman family has called Bayfield home for 16 years.

During that time, Kent has held a variety of positions with the San Juan BLM Field Office, including geologist, mines staff chief, multi-resources staff chief, and acting area manager.

Since Service First was initiated, he has been the BLM Associate Area Manager and Deputy Forest Supervisor for San Juan Public Lands.

The Hoffmans have six sons in public school, and it was a challenge at first for them to consider relocating.

"I think they're okay with it now," Kent says, "particularly the twins who are in the first grade." Son Kyle graduates from Bayfield High School this year, Jimmy is a junior, Alex is in the 7th grade, and Tyler is in the 5th.

"There are two great things in Durango – the people and the land – and I will miss them both," Kent says. "I'm taking away a piece of everyone here because I learned from everyone."



Inside This Issue

New Management	Pg. 2
Personnel Changes	3
Public Lands Center	4-5
Dolores Office	6-7
Columbine Office	8-9
Pogosa Office	10
Fun Fotos	11
San Juan Mtns. Assoc.	12

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SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

Meet the New Interim Boss



By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Mark Stiles, Acting Supervisor for the San Juan Public Lands, is not new to this area. He was instrumental in helping establish Service First in Southwest Colorado as Cal Joyner's supervisor when Mark oversaw three BLM districts from Montrose.

"Service First is the wave of the future, and though it takes a lot of work and involves a lot of changes, it's a very important concept in

public land management," Mark says.

Mark is a proud "soccer dad." His two children, Kelly, 14, and Kimberly, 10, are both soccer players, and he spends lots of time at their games. He also coached youth basketball in Montrose. Mark and his wife, Bernie, have lived in Montrose for the last seven years. His favorite pastimes are backpacking and flyfishing.

Mark moved to Colorado at the age of 14 and earned a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology and a Master's in Economics from Colorado State University. He has 21 years of experience with BLM, but this will be his first time to work for the USFS.

"I started in Utah, then went to North Dakota, then South Dakota and D.C., where I was detailed in the office of the Secretary of the Interior," he says. After that he went to the BLM Montrose office.

"I've spent a good amount of time in the San Juan region," Mark says. He took the lead in helping to establish Canyons of the Ancients Monument.

"It's kind of scary taking on the job, because I've been on the fringe before. Now I'll be in the middle of everything. But I'll be leaning heavily on the staff," he says. "You are such a great group that I know it will work."

The Detail Man

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Eric Janes, Acting Associate Field Office Supervisor for the San Juan BLM, says his 120 days here have been exciting. Eric was detailed from the BLM Washington D.C. office in late January to help with the changes in the management staff of the San Juan Public Lands. He'll be returning to D.C. to resume his job as BLM Water Resources Project Lead in June.

"There are outstanding folks here, and it has been a very positive experience," Eric says. "In fact, I call it 'the center that never sleeps' because folks are so devoted to their work."

Eric has had a varied career of federal service. In the 1970s he worked in Colorado's State BLM office. He also served a stint with the National Park Service in Denver. His wife, Betty, is a career Park Service employee, working as a planner at the D.C. office.

In the 1980s, Eric worked in the National Science and Technology Center and has been in D.C. for the last five years in his present position. The Janes have two daughters, Heidi and Holly, who are pursuing college careers. The entire family took time off to visit Durango this spring and loved it.

Eric says the San Juan's Service First Program is nationally recognized.



"The President's management agenda for public lands is looking at an integrated approach, and the best model is in Southwest Colorado. If the public doesn't distinguish between boundaries, why should agencies?"

After returning to D.C. the Janes family plans a special summer vacation to Scotland where some research in family history will occur.

"My wife is of Scottish origin, and I have a bit of Scottish blood, so it will be exciting," Eric says.

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SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

The Return of the Personal Personnel Touch

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - "It's all come back – both the work and the records," says San Juan National Forest Personnel Manager Jeannie Harris.

After a couple of years of being housed in the Rocky Mountain Region Operations Center in Lakewood, all local USFS personnel operations have come back home to the San Juan Public Lands Center.

It's good news for employees, but Jeannie, who has 26 years of experience in Personnel Services, says she's swamped.

"We have to hire 130 seasonals by summer, plus fill the vacancies and turnovers that naturally occur," she

says.

Jeanie and her staff will also be busy sorting through applications to fill as many as 35 other vacancies, most in fire-related positions, plus a new shop crew. Last year, she filled 42 vacancies; the year before, 10.

"We still have to clean up of some of the confusion caused by the change, but it's coming together," Jeanie says. "New needs are always cropping up."

To better serve San Juan employees, Jeannie's staff has grown to include Kathy Jarussi, Michelle Knipp, and student assistant Trish Hinzman.



Life's Great in the Lower 48

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Kathy Jarussi, new USFS Human Resource Assistant at the Public Lands Center, brings a wealth of experience to the San Juan.

Working with BLM Fire Services in Alaska, she was responsible for hir-

ing smokejumpers and hot shots. Montana born and raised, Kathy spent the last five years in Fairbanks and says she's enjoying Durango's sunshine and blues skies after the long, cold, dark winters up north.

Kathy followed her siblings to Alaska after working in Personnel on the Bitterroot NF. Alaska holds many special memories for her - moose in her front yard, the Aurora Borealis, and travels to remote areas by plane or boat, including job recruiting trips to Native Eskimo villages.

But even though as an Alaskan resident, she enjoyed a 25% tax-free cost of living stipend, yearly mineral dividends, and paid no state taxes, she still finds Durango more appealing. "The people are so friendly here, and the outside temperature is so warm," she says.

Kathy is helping with National Forest staffing, benefits, and workers' compensation, a new area for her.

"It's a time of growth," she says. She's looking forward to making new friends in Durango, and to flying her "cat family" south from Alaska soon to join her.

It's Another Knipp

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - There's another Knipp in the San Juan Public Lands Center – Michelle, new Human Resources Assistant.

You'll find her helping out with leave audits, paychecks, and other employee needs.

Michelle, Linda Knipp's daughter-in-law, is a Durango native. Both she and her husband, Bucky, an auto painter, are Durango High School graduates.

"It's great having her around," Linda says. "I'm really glad she got the job."

Michelle is the proud mother of Linda's grandchildren, six-year-old Hazel, and three-year-old Steven. Hazel is in kindergarten and already gaining recognition as an outstanding student.

She received the Ignacio School District's "Bobcat of the Month" award in January before transferring to Animas Valley Elementary when her family moved to Durango.

Michelle took time away from work to remain home with Steven until beginning her new job here. Prior to his birth, she worked at A-Med Supply.

Michelle loves to spend time camping and water skiing at Navajo Lake with her family. Vacations are built around the kids, so a trip to Six Flags is in the offing next.



SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



Englishman Exits

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Don Englishman with the BLM minerals staff in the Public Lands Center retired this spring. Don first came to Durango in 1977 as an environmental scientist with the USGS.

He joined BLM's staff in 1982 as a surface protection specialist and spent many hours in the field over the years.

A long-time Colorado resident but born in Chicago, Don plans to spend time rebuilding his model railroad that "he hasn't touched in years" and taking care of lots of "honey-do's" around the small mobile home park that he and his wife, Marilyn, own. Marilyn runs the business, and he does the maintenance and lawn care.

Don plans to spend hours outside his home xeriscaping the surrounding yard.

"I enjoy Japanese gardens," he says.

"I can also put myself on a reading regiment and catch up on all the scientific and historic information that I want to know more about," he says.

Then there are grandchildren in Phoenix and Washington D.C. to visit.



She's An Agreeable Sort

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Gayle Porter has filled the brand new position of Grants and Agreements Manager for the San Juan Public Lands Center and says employees were "knocking at the door before I even got a chance to warm up my feet."

Gayle moved here from the USFS Washington D.C. office where she spent four years working in budget.

"This job is very different," she says, "and I'm looking forward to Durango's quieter lifestyle very much."

"It seems I've spent my life working in four-year stints," Gayle began working with the USFS in 1982 in Fort Collins.

From there, she went to the White River NF, then to Milwaukee, then back to the White River NF and then to D.C.

Gayle grew up in Pueblo where she graduated from Southern Colorado State College with a degree in education.

Although she didn't follow that career, her son, Clay, is a schoolteacher in Denver. Gayle has bought a home in Durango West and moved in with her two dogs and cat.

A Safe Move

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Brad Morrison has left his long-time position as Columbine Wildlife Biologist to become USFS/BLM Fire and Occupational Safety and Health Manager in the Public Lands Center.

Brad has been with the San Juan NF for 23 of his 27-year USFS career, and all of that time with the Animas (Columbine) District.

"I'll still be a biologist, a range specialist, and all those other hats I've worn. I'll be involved in every aspect of land management as a safety officer," Brad says.

He'll be responsible for meshing the safety policies of the Departments of Interior and Agriculture.

"It will take a lot of study and research," he says. He'll also stay current with the latest safety ideas, while looking at historical events that involved accident or tragedy.

"I want to make sure people have job safety, but I won't be there like the Gestapo," Brad says. "Everyone is a safety officer who looks after him or herself. I think if people are happy, they'll be safer."

Still healing from a mountain biking accident that happened a few years ago, he hasn't slowed down in leading an active life.

"I love to play tennis and just be outside," he says.



B.J. Boucher is past Director of the San Juan Mountains Association. She is currently working to help establish the Mountains Institute in Silverton and has been a long-term supporter of public lands in Southwest Colorado.

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

Alan's REI Adventure

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Alan Peterson, San Juan Mountains Association Visitor Information Specialist at the Public Lands Center spent a month this winter working at the Outdoor Recreation Information Center (ORIC) in the Denver REI outlet.

ORIC, which is supported by six federal and state agencies and Denver-area volunteers, provides the public with one-stop shopping for recreation information about state and federal public lands.

"It broadened my horizons and helped me become more informed about the Region," Alan says.

"When you stay with one thing for a while, you get stale. I feel refreshed and more sure of myself."

Alan went above and beyond his regular duties while there (as usual), creating volunteer profile sheets and strengthening the volunteer program.

He ordered and restocked brochures, repaired a broken topo map machine, posted signs for customers, and downloaded programs from Web sites.

Though he enjoyed the break, Alan says he's glad to be back.

"Here, I get to do so many things, like helping staff and visitors, and managing the SJMA Bookstore."

Alan has been a VIS on the San Juan since 1994, and he says he expects to stick around for a while longer.



Nice to Have Her 'Round

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Kimberly Round moved all the way from New England to become a Landscape Architect in the San Juan Public Lands Center.

She started her USFS career on the White Mountain NF in New Hampshire and Maine in 1992 as a landscape architect and stayed there except for a

six-month assignment to the Coconino NF in 1998.

But when Kimberly saw a position advertised in Durango, she knew she wanted to come here.

"Dick Ostergaard has a national reputation, and I wanted to work with him," she says.

She's now working with the fuels reduction program for the BLM and USFS. Her objective is to make sure the landscapes look good while still accomplishing the task.

Her family still lives in New Hampshire where she was raised. She did her undergraduate work in recreation management at the University of New Hampshire and received a graduate degree in landscape architecture from the State University of New York.

An avid road bicyclist, she once biked across the country for three months from Oregon to New Hampshire.

"It was a great adventure, and fulfilled one of my favorite activities—travel," she says.

"Even though I'm a Yankee, I love Durango," she says, "and I plan on being here for a long time."

20/20 'VI S'ion

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - More than 60 visitor information professionals honed their skills and increased their knowledge this spring at the 11th annual Rocky Mountain Region VIS Conference sponsored by the San Juan Public Lands Center.

They heard presentations and panel discussions on working with the media and partners, improving office safety, and handling difficult people.

They also toured the Anasazi Heritage Center and Ponderosa Pine Project.

A banquet featured cowboy poet Bob Huff of Pagosa Springs and the musical skills of the San Juan's own Lloyd McNeil.

"This was one of the best VIS conferences the Region has ever had," said Jane Leche, VIS Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Region.

The conference was put together by Art Sanchez, Alan Peterson and Toni Kelly – folks with plenty of 'VIS'ion.

DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



Sellar-Baker Settles In

By Toni Kelly

DOLORES - With the staff growing at Dolores Public Lands Office, the BLM's answer to Mike Znerold's ever-increasing workload is Jamie Sellar-Baker.

Jamie is the new Assistant Field Office Manager/District Ranger. While "Z" wears the green USFS uniform, Jamie dons the traditional BLM brown. They share management and supervisory responsibilities.

Jamie was a Natural Resource Specialist for the BLM Worland Field Office for 12 years, where she worked in surface-mineral resources. She was also staff Environmental/NEPA Coordinator.

She began her career in 1979 as a BLM temporary collecting vegetation-monitoring data. This led to a variety of temporary and permanent positions in range, forestry, soils, and research for the BLM, USFS, and private industry.

Born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska, Jamie holds a degree in Forestry Science from the University of Montana with an emphasis in range ecosystems and botany.

"A formal education is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to understanding the complexities of our environment," she says. "My most important education has come from my peers and the public through discussion and exploration of issues."



Greetings to Gardiner

By Toni Kelly

DOLORES - Todd Gardiner is the new Engine Foreman at the Dolores Public Lands Office.

Todd worked as an engine crewmember for Columbine in 1998 and Dolores in 1999. He also spent a season as a member of the Durango helitack crew in 2000.

A surfer from Los Angeles, Todd received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California.

For the past two years, he has been working on a masters degree in Fire Ecology at Colorado State University.

"My thesis is on the effects fire has on Gambel oak", Todd says.

Todd began his USFS career as a Wilderness Ranger for the Gifford Pinchot NF in 1994. He also spent a season on the Nez Perce NF in northern Idaho.

Todd's new wife, Alisa, is currently working for Mesa Verde National Park as a GIS specialist in fire. Both enjoy telemark skiing, hiking, and canoeing.

They are the parents of Rex and Ab-bey, their pet dogs.



Karchut Stays Put

By Toni Kelly

DOLORES - Bryan Karchut, promoted last January from Assistant Engine Foreman Supervisor to Engine Foreman Supervisor, has worked his way up the fire organization to his current position.

An archeologist in his previous life, Bryan began his USFS career as a seasonal archeologist in 1996, working on the Columbine for two seasons before moving over to the Archeology shop in Dolores in 1998.

Originally from Colorado Springs, Brian is a native Coloradoan. He holds a degree in Anthropology from Fort Lewis College, Durango, and chose to remain in the Southwest.

If the name 'Karchut' sounds familiar, that's because there are two in the area. Jerome Karchut, Brian's brother, has also worked for the USFS as a seasonal Archeologist and is currently working at Mesa Verde National Park as crew chief on the fire assessment crew.

Brian is engaged to Marissa Dominguez, and they are planning an October wedding.

Brian enjoys four-wheeling, rock climbing, and hunting with his bird dog Bailey, a chocolate lab.

Toni Kelly is the Visitor Information Specialist for the Dolores Public Lands Office.

DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE

From PO to FMO

By Toni Kelly

DOLORES - Kevin Joseph, most recently from the Santa Fe NF in New Mexico, is settling into his new position at the Dolores Public Lands Office.

He is the new Fire Management Officer (FMO). He has 27 years of fire experience.

Kevin began his career working as a firefighter for the California Department of Forestry.

Beginning in 1974, he worked the next 12 years on the Cleveland NF in fire. He took a brief break from fire-related work in the 1980s and worked as a police officer for the San Diego Police Department.

Since then, he has worked on the Gila, Sawtooth, Bridger-Teton, and the Santa Fe NFs before coming to Dolores.



From the Deep Piney Woods

By Toni Kelly

DOLORES - Elaine Sherman was recently hired as USFS District Archeologist for the Dolores Public Lands Office.

She fills the vacancy left by Laura Kochanski, who now works for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Elaine joins Brooke Simpson, Vince MacMillian, and Kristie Arrington, all working in archaeology out of the Dolores Office.

"Elaine and I help each other with BLM and Forest Service projects, but she is the lead Forest Service contact, and I am the lead BLM contact," says Brooke Simpson, BLM Dolores Field Office Archeologist.

"Vince handles Forest Service fuel reduction projects, and Kristie handles the BLM fuel reduction projects."

Elaine comes to us from Zavalla, Texas, where she worked as a District Archeologist on the Angelina NF, part of the National Forests and Grasslands of Texas.

She has also worked on the Lassen NF, while completing her Masters Degree in Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Elaine is the recipient of the Texas Historical Commission award for work completed in a successful Archeological Resource Protect Act (ARPA) case.

She enjoys needlework, such as cross-stitching. She is owned by two cats, Hector and Missy, and claims she has a dark side - "I collect Dr. Who memorabilia". Speaking of dark sides, Elaine is also from the Los Angeles area.



Announcing Annette

By Toni Kelly

DOLORES - Annette Joseph, Kevin's wife, replaced Mark Tucker in the Range Shop at the Dolores Public Lands Office.

She most recently worked as an Interdisciplinary Natural Resource Planner on the Santa Fe NF in New Mexico.

Annette has spent most of her career working in Rangeland Management for the USFS, but has also taken brief breaks in her career to teach and start a family.

She and Kevin have two sons, Kenny, 12, and Kyle, 10. The Josephs are very happy to be in the Dolores area where they have previously spent their family vacations. Both Kevin and Annette enjoy hunting and other outdoor sports.

Tips on How to Cut Down on Paper Use

1. Select double-sided printing on copiers and printers whenever possible. Printing on both sides of a page is an option under 'Properties' when you select 'Print' on your PC.
2. Don't print e-mail messages from your Lotus inbox. File messages and attachments on your hard drive - don't turn them into paper that will just fill filing cabinets.
3. Double-check copier settings before you press the START button.
4. Place blank pages in the bins in copy rooms so they can be reused.
5. Instead of placing partially printed paper (or blanks) in recycle bins, try using them for notes or scratch paper!

(Computers were supposed to make our offices "paperless", remember?)
Thanks for your cooperation!!

COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT/FIELD OFFICE

The Wright Stuff

By B.J. Boucher

BAYFIELD - Travis Wright accumulated a storehouse of great memories before settling into full-time employment with the San Juan Public Lands as Engine Supervisor on the Columbine District.

He spent last year traveling around the world, trekking in high places, climbing mountains, and visiting his Basque relatives in Spain.

Travis was a temporary on the Columbine District for three years before the promotion. He worked two years in recreation and one with the fire crew.

Travis grew up in Elko, Nevada, and attended the University of Reno, where he earned his B.S. in Forestry.

"My great-grandfather moved to Nevada from Spain as a sheepherder. We've been there ever since," he says. Until recently his family owned and operated a Basque restaurant in Elko.

After visiting Italy, Travis went to Greece and climbed Mt. Olympus. Then, he met his brother in Nepal and trekked in the Annapurna area. From there, he headed to New Zealand and traveled the backcountry.

"I aspired to climb New Zealand's most famous peak," he says, "and I did – I guess that's why it's called Mount Aspiring."

Don't expect to see Travis out mountain or rock climbing in the summer, however. He'll be too busy with fire management activities and house hunting. This world traveler says he intends to settle in for a while.



Walt Vaults to Columbine

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Walt Brown heads for the Columbine District fields this spring as the new Geologist in charge of oil and gas permitting and compliance. Walt and his wife, Helen Mary, joined the San Juan Public Lands Center BLM Minerals staff about a year ago.

"This is a brand new position, and I'm very excited about it," Walt says. He has spent the last year as Team Leader for the Northern San Juan Basin Coalbed Methane EIS.

His new job will be an extension of what he has been doing, but now he'll be directly overseeing compliance of oil and gas development on Columbine lands.

Walt grew up in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and earned a geology degree from Colorado State University. From there, he spent four years working for Echo Bay Minerals Company before joining the BLM Battle Mountain Field Office in Nevada, where he worked as Geologist, Wilderness Specialist, and Visual Resource Management Coordinator for almost a decade.

Walt and Helen Mary have two boys, Walker, 5, and Andrew, 3. "We're very glad to be living in Durango," he says. "We spend a lot of time hiking and being outdoors with the boys, but I also love the fact that there are lots of youth activities here."

Anthony Returns to the Field

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Working on forestwide management decisions was fine for a while, but Anthony Garcia is very pleased to be the new Columbine District Fish and Wildlife Biologist.

For the past two years, he's been the USFS Interdisciplinary Fish and Wildlife Biologist in the Public Lands Office. But this season, he'll move out to the Bayfield office to go back to working with "the habitat and critters" in the field.

Anthony began his USFS career on the Rio Grande NF as a coop student in 1990. After graduating from Adams State in 1995, he moved to Pagosa Springs as District Wildlife Biologist.

When you grow up and go to school in La Jara, Colorado, you learn to love backpacking and outdoor activities in the mountains.

Anthony has already carried his two-year-old daughter, Makayla, on a backpacking trip, and he'll be doing more of that this summer.

Two years ago, when he was transferred to the Public Lands Center in Durango, Anthony continued to live in Pagosa Springs, where his wife, Tanya, is an elementary school teacher. So working in Bayfield is a good deal all around.

"I really like the folks on the Columbine, and I'm looking forward to the dual responsibility of working with both BLM and USFS lands in the high alpine country as the biologist," he says.



COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT/FIELD OFFICE



Rowe, Rowe, Rowe

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Jennifer Rowe, new Rangeland Management Specialist on the Columbine District, grew up hunting, fishing, and camping in Ontario, Oregon.

That background created a love for the outdoors and resulted in a Range Management degree from Oregon State University.

While in college, Jennifer worked seasonally with BLM, and after graduation spent six months on a fire crew with Grand Canyon National Park. Most recently she worked on the Medicine Bow-Routt NF in Range Management.

One of the things that attracted her to the San Juan is the diversity of ecosystems in the Southwest.

"Ontario is situated in a dry desert terrain, and I love that aspect of Colorado, combined with the ponderosa pine forests," she says.

Jennifer also loves the wide range of art and theatre activities available here. She was an actress in melodramas in the Steamboat area and hopes to find a niche in local theatre.

She's also quite at home preparing great cuisine (keep that in mind when planning potlucks).

Jennifer has two brothers, one of whom—Greg Rowe—is an air tanker pilot out of Washington State. It was through him and his contact with Ed McCaw, San Juan Tanker Base manager, that she first learned about the San Juan.



RO Wants to Know

By Ann Bond

DURANGO - Deb Parker, USFS Region 2 Internal Communications Specialist, was in Durango this month asking a small, randomly selected sample of San Juan NF employees how they felt about internal communication.

It's all part of a Regional assessment resulting from the 1997 and 1999 Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) surveys. In those, R2 employees rated 11 communication problems.

Deb has been traveling the Region conducting 20 such focus groups, chosen randomly to include supervisory as well as nonsupervisory employees. Participants are asked the following:

1. What information is important to you?
2. How do you get information that's important to you?
3. What obstacles do you see to good communication?
4. What opportunities do you see for improving communication?

The answers will result in a review of communication methods and a strategic and tactical internal communication plan for the Region.

For more information, call Deb at 303-275-5348.

Say Hello to Cindy

By B.J. Boucher

DURANGO - Cindy Hockelberg is the new Lands and Minerals Forester for the Columbine District/Field Office.

She moved here from the Medicine Bow/Routt NF in March to join her husband, Rowdy Woods, who arrived on the Columbine last fall.

Cindy is handling land exchanges and special uses out of the Bayfield office.

"I'm constantly challenged – as someone throws me a curve ball just about every day, but I love it here," she says.

Cindy holds a bachelor's degree in Recreation Management and master's in Forestry and Natural Resources from Colorado State University.

Her first USFS job was on the White River NF in 1989.

The pitter-patter of little feet in Cindy and Rowdy's household belongs to cats and dogs.

"We have blue heelers, and they demand a walk every day," says Cindy, "but that's good because I love hiking."

Biking and cross-country skiing are her other outdoor passions.

Cindy grew up as a National Parks Service brat and Rowdy as a Forest Service brat.

"I was extremely lucky to have the Grand Tetons, Grand Canyon, and Rocky Mountain National Parks as my backyard," she says. Now she can walk out her back door in Bayfield and hike the Sauls Creek trails.

PAGOSA RANGER DISTRICT/FIELD OFFICE

Bachtel's Back in CO



By Phyllis Decker

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Born in Denver and raised in Arvada, Brian Bachtel, new Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist at the Pagosa Office, is glad to be back in Colorado.

"I can't imagine doing anything else and can't believe I actually get paid to ride a horse in mountain country," he says. "I'm looking forward to getting to know the District, country, and community."

Brian moved to Utah in 1976, graduating in 1985 from

Utah State University with degrees in Range Science and Forestry. He worked seasonal jobs on NFs in Utah on a cadastral survey crew, as a range tech, and on a helitack crew.

Brian also spent two years as a Peace Corps Forestry Officer on the small island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where he met and married his wife, Hannah.

In 1988, Brian got his first permanent USFS position as Range Technician on the Humboldt NF in Nevada and was promoted to Range Conservationist. He has since worked on the Ashley NF (where his "two beautiful babies – Jared and Tiffany" were born), then on to the Wasatch-Cache NF.

Brian has maintained his qualifications as helicopter crewmember. He has fought fire in Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, California, and Florida. He enjoys playing an active role in the growth of his children, including volunteering at their school. He also enjoys mountain biking and skiing.

Ellis Exits for Utah

By Phyllis Decker

PAGOSA SPRINGS – Pagosa Archeologist Bruce Ellis headed for Utah this spring to become Forest Archaeologist on the Manti-LaSal NF in Price, one of the richest areas in the nation for cultural and paleontological resources.

Bruce's interest in ancient cultures began in his early teens, when his family lived in North Africa and England. But before following his passion, Bruce worked as a commercial artist.

In 1981, he earned archeology degrees from Fort Lewis College and University of Texas in San Antonio. His career took him to Texas, Guatemala, Belize, and—with the USFS—to the Gila and Tahoe NFs. He arrived in Pagosa in 1995.



Bruce's greatest satisfaction during his tenure on the San Juan was helping manage the Chimney Rock Archeological Area interpretive program.

"I feel it's important to provide an opportunity for the public to enhance their

awareness of cultural resources by experiencing it firsthand," he says.

Bruce was busy with the Passports in Time and other volunteer programs. During his tenure here, volunteers contributed 12,000 hours of site field work, inventory, mapping, GIS work, and report writing.

While sad to leave the relationships they have enjoyed here, he and his wife, Cathy, are excited to be in Utah.

Phyllis Decker is the Visitor Information Specialist for the Pagosa Ranger District/Field Office.

Public Lands Center SPECIAL VISITORS



Yes, **everyone** has to wear a visitor tag when they come into the San Juan Public Lands Center. The handsome fellow to the left is none other than Luc Boudreaux, son of proud parents Laura Johnson-Boudreaux, Pagosa Wilderness Program Coordinator, and Bill Boudreaux.

And the fetching female to the right is Sophia Borchers, daughter of Kristie Borchers, San Juan Conservation Education Coordinator, and Ryan Borchers. Our readers may notice that she takes after her mother in her pursuit of shamelessly marketing her father's new business.



FAREWELL TO THE BOSSES



Mike Johnson (left) presents Kent Hoffman with a plaque last month honoring Kent's 16 years on the San Juan.

Kent Hoffman (right) and Cal Joyner exchange gifts at their joint going-away party at the Diamond Circle Theatre.



Mike Znerold (right) presents Cal Joyner with a historical remnant of the two's shared past eccentricities.

CHEESEBURGERS IN PARADISE



(ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT) Pete Merkel, Bob Lange, Mike Murphy, Tom Harris and Dave Dallison dish it up this month at the Employees' Association Cheeseburgers in the Parking Lot bash.



(ABOVE) "Grazin' in the grass is a gas, baby, can you dig it?" Public Lands Center employees kick back and enjoy the sun.



(BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT) June Dore and Bob Estelle build their burgers.



(ABOVE) Amy Wise cooks up beef burgers donated by our very own Clyde Johnson.

(AT LEFT FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) Laura Stransky, Terry Woodall, and Dee Lewis enjoy a well-deserved break.



OTHER HAPPENIN'S



SJMA Wins Awards

By Jenny Kane

DURANGO - The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) has been chosen as the 2001 recipient of the National Bureau of Land Management Partnership Award.

This award recognizes one nonprofit partner of the BLM, nationwide, that has shown exceptional support to the BLM's interpretive and educational programs and public outreach.

Patti Brady was recently singled out by the U.S. Forest Service to receive the Chief's National Volunteer of the Year Award, recognizing her great work on the Adopt a Road project, Hunter Information Program, Clean Forests Initiative, and Visitor Information Services.

The Public Lands Ambassadors program run by the SJMA at the Public Lands Center also received a Volunteer Program Achievement Award from the Chief. The mission of the SJMA is to enhance personal and community stewardship of natural, cultural and heritage resources through education, information, interpretation, and participation.

Jenny Kane is Executive Director of the San Juan Mountains Association.



Patti Brady was recently singled out by the U.S. Forest Service to receive the Chief's National Volunteer of the Year Award. Congratulations, Patti!



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